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General Assembly

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Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Organization of work: relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly

Note by the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The attention of the Special Committee is drawn to the resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session, listed in chapters II to IV below, which are relevant to the work of the Special Committee in 2003.

II. General resolutions on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

2. The Special Committee was established by the General Assembly pursuant to its resolution 1654 (XVI) of 27 November 1961. The Special Committee was requested to examine the application of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, and to make suggestions and recommendations on the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration.

3. By its resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963, the General Assembly decided to dissolve the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories, and requested the Special Committee to study the information transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations.

4. At the same session and at each subsequent session, the General Assembly, after considering the report of the Special Committee,[1] adopted a resolution renewing the mandate of the Special Committee.

5. At its thirty-fifth session, the General Assembly, on the basis of a recommendation of the Special Committee, adopted resolution 35/118 of 11 December 1980, the annex to which contains the Plan of Action for the Full

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Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

6. At its forty-third session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 43/47 of 22 November 1988, by which it declared the period 1990-2000 the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

7. At its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly, in its resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991, adopted as a plan of action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism the proposals contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General dated 13 December 1991 (A/46/634/Rev.1). The plan stated that the Special Committee, with the cooperation of the administering Powers, should:

(a) Prepare periodic analyses of the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration;

(b) Review the impact of the economic and social situation on the constitutional and political advancement of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(c) Organize during the Decade seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions alternately, as well as at United Nations Headquarters, to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the plan of action, with the participation of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, their elected representatives, the administering Powers, Member States, regional organizations, specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and experts.

In addition, the Special Committee was to continue to seek, as a matter of priority, the full cooperation of the administering Powers with regard to the dispatch of United Nations visiting missions to Non-Self-Governing Territories and, with the cooperation of the administering Powers, was to make every effort to facilitate and encourage the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in regional and international organizations, as well as in the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, the Special Committee itself and other United Nations decolonization bodies.

8. At its fifty-fifth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 55/146 of 8 December 2000, declaring the period 2001-2010 the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and called upon Member States to redouble their efforts to implement the plan of action, as contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General dated 13 December 1991 (A/46/634/Rev.1), updated where necessary, to serve as the plan of action for the Second Decade. The updated plan of action is contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General (A/56/61).

9. At its fifty-seventh session, after considering the report of the Special Committee,[2] the General Assembly adopted resolution 57/140 of 11 December 2002, in which it approved the report of the Special Committee covering its work during 2002, including the programme of work envisaged for 2003,[3] and requested the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration and to carry out those actions approved by the General Assembly regarding the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and the Second International Decade in all Territories that have not yet exercised their right to self-determination, including independence, and in particular:

(a) To formulate specific proposals to bring about an end to colonialism and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session;

(b) To continue to examine the implementation by Member States of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization;

(c) To continue to examine the political, economic and social situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and to recommend, as appropriate, to the General Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination, including independence, in accordance with relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

(d) To finalize before the end of 2003 a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories to facilitate the implementation of the mandate of the Special Committee and the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

(e) To continue to dispatch visiting missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories in accordance with relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

(f) To conduct seminars, as appropriate, for the purpose of receiving and disseminating information on the work of the Special Committee, and to facilitate participation by the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in those seminars;

(g) To take all necessary steps to enlist worldwide support among Governments, as well as national and international organizations, for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration and the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

(h) To observe annually the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories.[4]

In addition, the Assembly reaffirmed that the United Nations visiting missions to the Territories were an effective means of ascertaining the situation in the Territories, as well as the wishes and aspirations of their inhabitants, and called upon the administering Powers to continue to cooperate with the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate and to facilitate United Nations visiting missions to the Territories, and also called upon the administering Powers that had not participated formally in the work of the Special Committee to do so at its session in 2003.

10. As at 1 January 2003, the Special Committee was composed of the following 23 members: Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia, Chile, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Ethiopia, Fiji, Grenada, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Mali, Papua New Guinea, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Sierra Leone, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania and Venezuela.

III. Resolutions and decisions concerning specific items considered by the Special Committee in 2002

11. In addition to resolution 57/140, the General Assembly adopted 10 other resolutions and 3 decisions relating to specific items considered by the Special Committee in 2002, which are listed below. Members will wish to take them into account in drawing up the Special Committee's programme of work for 2003.

A. Resolutions and decisions concerning specific Territories

1. Resolutions

Territory	*Resolution number*	*Date of adoption*
Western Sahara	57/135	11 December 2002
New Caledonia	57/136	11 December 2002
Tokelau	57/137	11 December 2002
American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands	57/138 A and B	11 December 2002

2. Decisions

Territory	*Decision number*	*Date of adoption*
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	57/511	11 November 2002
Gibraltar	57/526	11 December 2002

B. Resolutions concerning other items

Title	*Resolution number*	*Date of adoption*
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations	57/131	11 December 2002
Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories	57/132	11 December 2002
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations	57/133	11 December 2002
Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories	57/134	11 December 2002
Dissemination of information on decolonization	57/139	11 December 2002

C. Decisions concerning other questions

Title	*Decision number*	*Date of adoption*
Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration	57/525	11 December 2002

IV. Other resolutions relevant to the work of the Special Committee

12. Other resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session that are relevant to the work of the Special Committee are listed below:

Title	*Resolution number*	*Date of adoption*
South American zone of peace and cooperation	57/13	14 November 2002
Assistance for humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and development for Timor-Leste	57/105	25 November 2002
Information in the service of humanity	57/130 A	11 December 2002
United Nations public information policies and activities	57/134 A and B	11 December 2002
Oceans and the law of the sea	57/141	12 December 2002
Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly	57/163	18 December 2002
Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly	57/182	18 December 2002
International Decade of the World's Indigenous People	57/192	18 December 2002
Use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination	57/196	18 December 2002
Universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination	57/197	18 December 2002
The right to development	57/223	18 December 2002
Convention on Biological Diversity	57/260	20 December 2002
Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States	57/262	20 December 2002
Pattern of conferences	57/283	20 December 2002
Programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003	57/293 A, B and C	20 December 2002

Notes

[1] See the reports of the Special Committee submitted to the General Assembly at its eighteenth to fifty-seventh sessions. For the most recent, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/54/23); ibid., *Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/55/23); ibid., *Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/56/23); and A/57/23.

[2] A/57/23 (Parts I-III) (to be issued in final form as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/57/23)).

[3] Ibid., Part I, chap. I, sect. J.

[4] See General Assembly resolution 2911 (XXVII).